

### **Remarks**

The Examiner's reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments above and comments which follow, all of which are part of the filing of a Request for Continued Examination given the finality of the Office Action of April 15, 2009.

Given what the Examiner has said in the Advisory Action of June 25, 2009, amendments of the claims have been made to more clearly distinguish the invention from the admitted prior art.

In the final paragraph of the action the Examiner points to a distinction between "having" and integrating a feature/device. The Examiner considers, for example, that in the prior art the VPN gateway "has" a VPN media proxy albeit that it is in a different location (the carrier data network).

The specification states that "The VPN media proxy 250 integrates the functionality of the VPN gateway with the functionality of a media proxy". This type of language has been incorporated into the independent claims and it is submitted that the claimed subject matter is clearly novel in view of the admitted prior art.

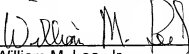
The main advantage of having the media proxy integrated with the VPN gateway is that the traffic remains in the VPN without needing to reach addresses through the NAT. This means that each VPN can have overlapping IP addresses (which can also overlap with the Carrier Data Network). An additional advantage of this is that the site-router (70) (or a site firewall) can be configured only to allow VoIP traffic to be sent within the VPN, and to be received from the VPN addresses, which adds to the security of the system.

The VPN gateway with integrated media proxy allows the VoIP media within the enterprise VPN to use only intranet IP addressing, even when having to break out to the public network. This means that the enterprise router 70 does not need to be configured to allow certain UDP traffic to go through, something which is complex to setup correctly, requires periodic updates (e.g. if the carrier adds or changes the media proxy 42) and reduces the security of the enterprise firewall (as more pinholes needs to be configured). In other words, having the media proxy integrated greatly simplifies the work of the IT manager while enhancing security.

Therefore, with the amendments above to the independent claims, it is submitted that the application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

July 15, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

  
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